

What is claimed is:

1. A header assembly for connecting an implantable medical device to a conductor lead terminating at a body organ intended to be assisted by the medical device comprising a housing containing control circuitry, at least one electrical energy storage device, and at least one feedthrough wire extending from the control circuitry and through a wall of the housing, the header assembly comprising:
  - a) a body mounted on the housing for the medical device;
  - b) at least one terminal supported by the polymeric body, wherein the terminal is directly connectable to the conductor lead; and
  - c) a unitary intermediate conductor supported by the body, the intermediate conductor having a distal end connected to the terminal and a proximal end directly connected to the feedthrough wire.
2. The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the proximal end of the intermediate conductor wire comprises a step that is securable to the feedthrough wire in a lap joint construction.

3. The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the proximal end of the intermediate conductor wire comprises an enlarged head having a bore into which the feedthrough wire is receivable and connectable.

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4. The header assembly of claim 3 wherein the enlarged head comprises a bore and a groove in communication with the bore, and wherein a spring is nested in the groove so that when the feedthrough wire is received in the bore,  
10 the spring contacts the feedthrough wire.

5. The header assembly of claim 4 wherein the groove is an annular groove supporting an annular spring that surrounds the feedthrough wire.

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6. The header assembly of claim 4 wherein the spring is a leaf spring.

7. The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the body is of  
20 a polymeric material.

8. The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the body includes a first inlet that receives a bracket secured to the housing and a second inlet and wherein with the  
25 bracket received in the first inlet, a wedge is receivable in the second inlet and a bracket inlet to secure the header assembly to the medical device.

9. The header assembly of claim 8 wherein the bracket is either L-shaped or U-shaped.

10. The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the housing  
5 for the medical device comprises mating first and second clam shells.

11. The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the medical  
device is selected from the group consisting of a hearing  
10 assist device, neurostimulator, cardiac pacemaker, drug pump and cardiac defibrillator.

12. A header assembly for connecting an implantable  
medical device to a conductor lead terminating at a body  
15 organ intended to be assisted by the medical device comprising a housing containing control circuitry, at least one electrical energy storage device, and at least one feedthrough wire extending from the control circuitry and through a wall of the housing, the header assembly  
20 comprising:

- a) a body mounted on the housing for the medical device;
- b) at least one terminal supported by the polymeric body, wherein the terminal is directly  
25 connectable to the conductor lead; and
- c) an intermediate conductor supported by the body, the intermediate conductor having a distal end

connected to the terminal and a proximal end  
directly connected to the feedthrough wire.

13. The header assembly of claim 12 wherein the proximal  
5 end of the intermediate conductor wire connects to an  
enlarged head comprising a bore and a groove in  
communication with the bore, and wherein a spring is  
nested in the groove so that when the feedthrough wire is  
received in the bore, the spring contacts the feedthrough  
10 wire.

14. The header assembly of claim 12 wherein the groove is  
an annular groove supporting an annular spring that  
surround the feedthrough wire.

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15. The header assembly of claim 12 wherein the spring is  
a leaf spring.

16. A method for connecting an implantable medical device  
20 to a conductor terminating at a body organ intended to be  
assisted by the medical device, comprising the steps of:

a) providing the medical device having a housing  
containing control circuitry, at least one  
electrical energy storage device and at least  
25 one feedthrough wire extending from the control  
circuitry through a wall of the housing to a  
distal end located outside the housing;

- b) providing a body supporting at least one terminal and at least one unitary intermediate conductor, wherein the intermediate conductor has a distal end connected to the terminal and a proximal end;
- c) mounting the body on the medical device with the proximal end of the feedthrough wire disposed in an overlapping relationship with at least a portion of the intermediate conductor; and
- d) securing the proximal end of the feedthrough wire to the intermediate conductor.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the proximal end of the intermediate conductor wire comprises a step and including the step of securing the feedthrough wire to the conductor wire in a lap joint construction.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the proximal end of the intermediate conductor wire comprises an enlarged head having a bore into which the feedthrough wire is receivable and connectable.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the bore in the enlarged head comprises a groove supporting a spring, and including the step of mounting the header assembly on the medical device with the feedthrough wire received in the bore and the spring contacting the feedthrough wire.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the groove is an annular groove supporting an annular spring surrounding the feedthrough wire.

5 21. The method of claim 19 wherein the spring is a leaf spring.

22. The method of claim 16 including providing the body of a polymeric material.

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23. The method of claim 16 including providing the body comprising a first inlet that receives a bracket secured to the housing and a second inlet and including the step of mounting the header assembly on the medical device with  
15 the bracket received in the first inlet and moving a wedge into the second inlet and a bracket inlet thereby securing the header assembly to the medical device.